

Security Information November 1952

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Second Session on Review of Collection from
Overt Sources Abroad

PARTICIPANTS:

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James Q. Reber, OIC

1. In clarification of the Memorandum of Conversation of 23 October 1952, it was agreed that over and above the current discussions with the State Department in reference to NSCID 10, there is also the question of the Department's guidance of the general reporting function of the Foreign Service as it will apply to scientific and technical matters. It was recognized that this would have to be gone into also as well as NSCID 10.

2. The meeting today was directed at the development of a program for identifying intelligence information available in documentary sources, whether classified or unclassified, in the U.S. It was apparent that thus far in intelligence there is (1) no guide or check list to the documentation resources and facilities of the several IAC Agencies; (2) no basic reference tool to the intelligence materials available in Government; and (3) no bibliographic service available to CIA researchers to which they can turn for information on resources, facilities, and reference materials in their various fields of interest.

This basic need was recognized one year ago by the research offices when they endorsed a project to establish a unit in the CIA Library to accomplish the task. Although FRC approval came through in December, it wasn't until last June that OCD was authorized to recruit the staff. To date only one person, [redacted] has been on hand to get the program going. A beginning has been made and certain information files are already available. A "Selected Reference Aid to Cyrillic Alphabet Materials" is about to be distributed by the CIA Library.

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3. On its part, OCD will prepare a prospectus of its intended program for all Offices to review and comment upon so that the project can move ahead on a systematic basis.

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4. The group discussed the extent to which CIA researchers refer to unclassified sources in the preparation of their reports. All agreed that in theory each researcher is required to exploit all sources of information regardless of classification. As a matter of practice, it was suggested that future research reports contain a list of the unclassified facilities and open literature used by the researcher to complement the information he derives from classified sources.

JAMES Q. HOLLER
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